

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5,5 C 1. A computer-related teaching apparatus for use with a computer keyboard and a computer, comprising a keyboard overlay adapted to cover at least a portion of the computer keyboard, said keyboard overlay having a plurality of individual key-accommodating structures, each said structure having at least a transparent upper surface to allow printed indicia on a key of the keyboard to be visible therethrough, and at least a portion of said transparent upper surfaces of said key-accommodating structures that correspond to alphabet keys of the keyboard having a lower-case letter positioned thereon in a non-interfering location relative to a position of the printed indicia on the alphabet key.

2. The teaching apparatus of claim 1, wherein the printed indicia on the alphabet keys of the keyboard is positioned in a first quadrant of the key, and wherein said lower-case letter is positioned in a fourth quadrant of said transparent upper surface of said key-accommodating structures.

3. The teaching apparatus of claim 1, wherein the printed indicia on the alphabet keys of the keyboard is positioned in a first quadrant of the key, and wherein said lower-case letter is positioned in a second quadrant of said transparent upper surface of said key-accommodating structures.

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4. The teaching apparatus of claim 1, wherein the printed indicia on the alphabet keys of the keyboard is positioned in a first quadrant of the key, and wherein said lower-case letter is positioned in a third quadrant of said transparent upper surface of said key-accommodating structures.

5. The teaching apparatus of claim 1 for use in an educational environment utilizing a first font style with which to teach children, wherein said lower-case letters are rendered in said first font style.

6. The teaching apparatus of claim 5, wherein said first font style is D'Nealian.

7. The teaching apparatus of claim 5, wherein said first font style is Zaner Bloser.

8. The teaching apparatus of claim 1, wherein said lower-case letter is positioned on an under surface of said transparent upper surface of said individual key-accommodating structure.

9. The teaching apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a transparent protective layer attached to said under surface of said transparent upper surface of said individual key-accommodating structure such that said lower-case letter is positioned between said transparent upper surface and said transparent protective layer.

10. The teaching apparatus of claim 1, wherein said keyboard overlay is adapted to cover a whole of the keyboard.

11. A computer-related teaching apparatus for use with young children who do not have a complete mastery of a relationship between upper-case and lower-case letters, comprising a computer keyboard having a plurality of individual keys, at least a portion of said individual keys including a glyph of an upper-case letter and a glyph of an associated lower-case letter.

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Sub B51
12. The teaching apparatus of claim 11, wherein said glyph of an upper-case letter and said glyph of said lower-case letter are positioned in a horizontal relationship to one another in a plane of said keys.

13. The teaching apparatus of claim 11, wherein said glyph of an upper-case letter and said glyph of said lower-case letter are positioned in a diagonal relationship to one another in a plane of said keys.

14. The teaching apparatus of claim 11, wherein said glyph of an upper-case letter and said glyph of said lower-case letter are positioned in a vertical relationship to one another in a plane of said keys.

15. The teaching apparatus of claim 11, wherein said glyph of said upper-case letter is positioned on said keys, and wherein said glyph of said lower-case letter is positioned on a layer that is overlaid on the keys.

16. The teaching apparatus of claim 15, wherein said layer is adhesively applied on individual keys.

17. The teaching apparatus of claim 15, wherein said layer is formed into a keyboard overlay having a plurality of individual key-accommodating structures, each structure having at least a transparent upper surface to allow said glyph of an upper-case letter on said keys to be visible therethrough, said glyph of a lower-case letter positioned thereon in a non-interfering location relative to a position of said glyph of an upper-case letter on the keys.

18. A method of enabling a person who does not have a complete mastery of a relationship between upper-case and lower-case letters to enter data into a computer, comprising the step of providing a data entry device that displays both upper and lower case letters in association with one another.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of providing a data entry device that displays both upper and lower case letters in association with one another comprises the step of providing a computer keyboard, and a computer keyboard overlay having a plurality of individual key-accommodating structures, each structure having at least a transparent upper surface to allow printed indicia on a key of the computer keyboard to be visible therethrough, and at least a portion of said transparent upper surfaces of the key-accommodating structures that correspond to alphabet keys of the

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computer keyboard having a lower-case letter positioned thereon in a non-interfering location relative to a position of the printed indicia on the alphabet key.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of providing a data entry device that displays both upper and lower case letters in association with one another comprises the step of providing a computer keyboard having a plurality of individual keys, at least a portion of the individual keys including a glyph of an upper-case letter and a glyph of an associated lower-case letter.

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21. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of providing a data entry device that displays both upper and lower case letters in association with one another comprises the step of applying transparent stickers having a lower-case letter displayed thereon to associated alphabet keys of a computer keyboard in a position such that both upper and lower case letters are displayed thereon.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of providing a data entry device that displays both upper and lower case letters in association with one another comprises the step of providing a computer keyboard, and a computer keyboard overlay having a plurality of individual key-accommodating structures, each structure associated with an alphabet key of the keyboard having an upper-case and a lower-case letter positioned thereon.

23. A method of enabling a child who does not have a complete mastery of a relationship between upper-case and lower-case letters to enter data into a computer via a standard computer keyboard, comprising the step of providing a keyboard overlay having a plurality of individual key-accommodating structures for accommodating at least a portion of the keys of the computer keyboard, the keyboard overlay displaying both upper and lower case letters in association with one another.

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